## Message Text

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O 092331Z JUN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

**UNCLAS STATE 147623** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING SHIP CHARTERED BY US SCHOOL REPORTEDLY DENIED ENTRY TO LENINGRAD

1. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED THIS MORNING BY STEPHANIE GALLAGHER, CO-OWNER AND OPERATOR WITH HER HUSBAND OF THE OCEANIC SCHOOL, 365 WEST END AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024, TELEPHONE 212-787-2700. THE OCEANIC SCHOOL OPERATES SAIL TRAINING CRUISES FOR COLLEGE CREDIT FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN MARINE-RELATED SUBJECTS. THE SCHOOL HAD CHARTED AN IRISH-FLAG BRIGANTINE NAMED THE PHOENIX TO CRUISE IN THE BALTIC AND CALL AT LENINGRAD. HOWEVER, MRS. GALLAGHER STATES THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO LET THE PHOENIX ENTER LENINGRAD CITING FAILURE OF THE SHIP TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO ENTER FROM INFLOT. ACCORDING TO MRS. GALLAGHER SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR ZNAMENSKIY SAID HE HAD ARRANGED "EVERYTHING" FOR THE CALL OF THE PHOENIX AT UNCLASSIFIED

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LENINGRAD.

2. ON BOARD THE PHOENIX ARE EIGHTEEN STUDENTS AND THREE TEACHERS, ALL OF THEM US CITIZENS HAVING SOVIET VISAS. ACCORDING MRS. GALLAGHER, SHE HAD ARRANGED THROUGH THE COSMOS TRAVEL AGENCY AND THE SOVIET STUDENT TRAVEL ORGANIZATION, SPUTNIK, TO HAVE A PROGRAM OF SEVERAL DAYS

FOR THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN AND AROUND LENINGRAD AND THAT SHE HAD PREPAID FOR THIS PROGRAM. SHE HAS LEARNED THAT SPUTNIK HAD MADE NO LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE GROUP IN LENINGRAD BUT PLANNED TO HAVE THEM STAY ON BOARD THE PHOENIX AT NIGHT. THIS SITUATION IS NOW COMPLICATED BY SOVIETS' FAILURE TO ALLOW PHOENIX INTO DOCK, FOR STUDENTS/ TEACHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED OFF THE SHIP AT ALL.

- 3. MRS. GALLAGHER STATES THAT SHE DISCUSSED THE CALL OF THE PHOENIX AT LENINGRAD SEVERAL TIMES WITH ZNAMENSKIY. LATTER HAD NOT ONLY PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF ALL FORMALITIES CONNECTED WITH ENTRY OF PHOENIX, SHE SAID, BUT HAD ALSO TOLD HER HE HAD ARRANGED FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM PHOENIX TO MEET WITH ADMIRAL FNU IKONNIKOV-TSIPULIN, DIRECTOR OF SEA SCHOOLS IN THE USSR.
- 4. MRS. GALLAGHER REQUESTS US ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PERMISSION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO GO ASHORE IN LENINGRAD ASAP TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD ALREADY HAVE STARTED. SHE ALSO ASKS THAT THE PHOENIX BE ALLOWED TO ENTER LENINGRAD, ALTHOUGH SHE GIVES INITIAL PRIORITY TO GETTING THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ASHORE. ADDITIONALLY SHE INFORMS THAT THE MASTER OF THE PHOENIX, A UK CITIZEN, HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT HIS WIFE IS GRAVELY ILL. HE HAS NO SOVIET VISA BUT IF POSSIBLE WOULD LIKE TO GO ASHORE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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TAKE A PLANE TO LONDON.

5. DEPARTMENT ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ZNAMENSKIY, BUT LEARNED THAT HE IS OUT OF TOWN. DEPARTMENT THEN CONTACTED MARITIME ATTACHE DZHAVAD WHO SAID HE HAD LEARNED OF THE PROBLEM AND HAD JUST SENT A TELEX TO MOSCOW. SINCE ZNAMENSKIY WAS PRESUMABLY DEALING WITH THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES THAT IS WHERE HE SENT THE TELEX, HE SAID. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSES CONTACT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF PHOENIX AND ARRANGE SPEEDY DISEMBARKATION OF PHOENIX'S STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND THE PROMPT ENTRY OF THE SHIP INTO LENINGRAD. WE HOPE SOVIETS WILL ALLOW CAPTAIN OF SHIP TO FLY TO LONDON FROM LENINGRAD. VANCE

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Subject: TRAINING SHIP CHARTERED BY US SCHOOL REPORTEDLY DENIED ENTRY TO LENINGRAD

TAGS: EWWT, UR, US
To: MOSCOW LENINGRAD

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